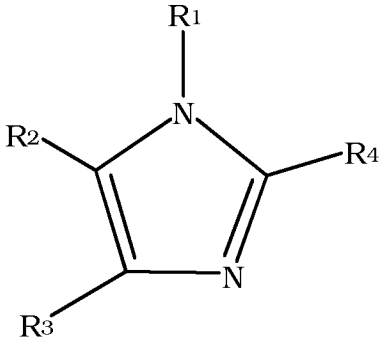
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended): A metal-coated resin molded article comprising a substrate made of a ~~resin composition~~ molded article and a metal layer formed on said substrate, wherein said ~~resin composition~~ molded article comprises a reaction product obtained by reacting a liquid-crystalline polyester and an epoxy-group containing ethylene copolymer,
said epoxy-group containing ethylene copolymer contains 50 to 99.9 wt% of an ethylene unit and 0.1 to 30 wt% of at least one of an unsaturated carboxylic acid glycidyl ester unit and an unsaturated glycidyl ether unit in the molecule thereof, and
a content of said epoxy-group containing ethylene copolymer is in a range of 0.1 to 25 parts by weight with respect to 100 parts by weight of said liquid-crystalline polyester;
and wherein said metal layer is formed by physical vapor deposition of a metal onto said substrate and said substrate is treated with plasma prior to formation of said metal layer; and
wherein said liquid-crystalline polyester is the reaction product obtained by performing the ester-exchange and polycondensation reaction in the presence of an imidazole compound represented by the following chemical formula:



wherein, each of "R_1" to "R_4" is selected from hydrogen atom, alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 4, hydroxymethyl group, cyano group, cyanoalkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 4, cyanoalkoxy group having a carbon number of 1 to 4, carboxyl group, amino group, aminoalkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 4, aminoalkoxy group

having a carbon number of 1 to 4, phenyl group, benzyl group, phenylpropyl group, and a formyl group.

2. (Original) The metal-coated resin molded article as set forth in claim 1, wherein said liquid-crystalline polyester is a reaction product obtained by an ester-exchange and polycondensation reaction of at least one of an aromatic dicarboxylic acid and an aromatic hydroxycarboxylic acid with an acylated compound obtained by acylating a phenolic hydroxyl group of at least one of an aromatic diol and an aromatic hydroxycarboxylic acid with a fatty acid anhydride.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The metal-coated resin molded article as set forth in claim 1, wherein said epoxy-group containing ethylene copolymer contains 80 to 95 wt% of the ethylene unit and 5 to 15 wt% of at least one of the unsaturated carboxylic acid glycidyl ester unit and the unsaturated glycidyl ether unit in the molecule thereof.

5. (Currently Amended) The metal-coated resin molded article as set forth in claim 1, wherein said ~~resin composition~~ molded article contains a fiber-like inorganic filler having a diameter of 6 to 15 μm and an aspect ratio of 5 to 50.

6. (Currently Amended) The metal-coated resin molded article as set forth in claim 1, wherein said ~~resin composition~~ molded article contains 20 to 235 parts by weight of a whisker with respect to 100 parts by weight of said liquid-crystalline polyester.

7. (Currently Amended) The metal-coated resin molded article as set forth in claim 1, wherein said ~~resin composition~~ molded article contains 10 to 40 parts by weight of a plate-like inorganic filler with respect to 100 parts by weight of said liquid-crystalline polyester.

8. (Previously Presented) The metal-coated resin molded article as set forth in claim 1, wherein said metal layer consists essentially of a metal material selected from the group consisting of copper, nickel, gold, aluminum, titanium, molybdenum, chromium, tungsten, tin, lead, brass, Nichrome and an alloy thereof.

9. (Original) The metal-coated resin molded article as set forth in claim 1, wherein said metal layer is formed in a circuit pattern.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a metal-coated resin molded article comprising the steps of

molding a resin composition to obtain a substrate made of a molded article;

performing a heat treatment to said substrate;

treating said substrate with plasma; and

forming a metal layer on a surface of said substrate by physical vapor deposition of a metal onto said plasma-treated substrate,

wherein said resin composition comprises a liquid-crystalline polyester and an epoxy-group containing ethylene copolymer, said epoxy-group containing ethylene copolymer contains 50 to 99.9 wt% of an ethylene unit and 0.1 to 30 wt% of at least one of an unsaturated carboxylic acid glycidyl ester unit and an unsaturated glycidyl ether unit in the molecule thereof, and a content of said epoxy-group containing ethylene copolymer is in a range of 0.1 to 25 parts by weight with respect to 100 parts by weight of said liquid-crystalline polyester.

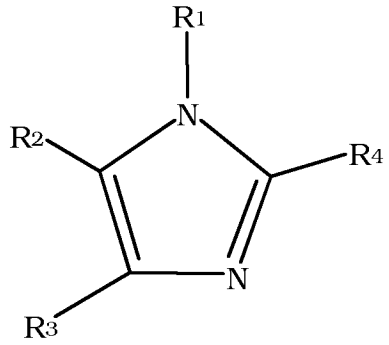
11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 10 ~~comprising the step of performing a~~ wherein said heat treatment ~~to said substrate~~ is performed at a temperature between a lower limit temperature calculated by subtracting 120°C from a flow-beginning temperature of said liquid-crystalline polyester, and an upper limit temperature calculated by subtracting 20°C from the flow-beginning temperature.

14. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 10, wherein said liquid-crystalline polyester is prepared by an ester-exchange and polycondensation reaction of at least one of an aromatic dicarboxylic acid and an aromatic hydroxycarboxylic acid, with an acylated compound obtained by acylating a phenolic hydroxyl group of at least one of an aromatic diol and an aromatic hydroxycarboxylic acid with a fatty acid anhydride.

15. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the ester-exchange and polycondensation reaction is performed in the presence of an imidazole compound represented by the following chemical formula:



wherein, each of "R_1" to "R_4" is selected from hydrogen atom, alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 4, hydroxymethyl group, cyano group, cyanoalkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 4, cyanoalkoxy group having a carbon number of 1 to 4, carboxyl group, amino group, aminoalkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 4, aminoalkoxy group having a carbon number of 1 to 4, phenyl group, benzyl group, phenylpropyl group, and a formyl group.

16. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 10 comprising the step of forming a circuit pattern in said metal layer by laser patterning.

17. (New) The molded article as set forth in claim 1, wherein said imidazole compound is selected from a group consisting of imidazole, 2-methylimidazole, 4-methylimidazole, 1-ethylimidazole, 2-ethylimidazole, 4-ethylimidazole, 1,2-dimethylimidazole, 1,4-dimethylimidazole, 2,4-dimethylimidazole, 1-methyl-2-ethylimidazole, 1-methyl-4-ethylimidazole, 1-ethyl-2-methylimidazole, 1-ethyl-2-ethylimidazole, 1-ethyl-2-phenylimidazole, 2-phenylimidazole, 2-undecylimidazole, 2-heptadecylimidazole, 1-benzyl-2-methylimidazole, 2-phenyl-4-methylimidazole, 1-cyanoethyl-2-methylimidazole, 1-cyanoethyl-2-phenylimidazole, 4-cyanoethyl-2-ethyl-4-methylimidazole or 1-aminoethyl-2-methylimidazole.

18. (New) The method as set forth in claim 15, wherein said imidazole compound is selected from a group consisting of imidazole, 2-methylimidazole, 4-methylimidazole, 1-ethylimidazole, 2-ethylimidazole, 4-ethylimidazole, 1,2-dimethylimidazole, 1,4-dimethylimidazole, 2,4-dimethylimidazole, 1-methyl-2-ethylimidazole, 1-methyl-4-ethylimidazole, 1-ethyl-2-methylimidazole, 1-ethyl-2-ethylimidazole, 1-ethyl-2-phenylimidazole, 2-phenylimidazole, 2-undecylimidazole, 2-heptadecylimidazole, 1-benzyl-2-methylimidazole, 2-phenyl-4-methylimidazole, 1-cyanoethyl-2-methylimidazole, 1-

cyanoethyl-2-phenylimidazole, 4-cyanoethyl-2-ethyl-4-methylimidazole or 1-aminoethyl-2-methylimidazole.

19. (New) The method as set forth in claim 14, wherein said the ester exchange and polycondensation reaction is performed in the presence of a catalyst selected from a group consisting of stannous oxalate, dialkyl tin oxide, diaryl tin oxide, titanium alkoxide, alkoxy titanium silicate, antimony trioxide, calcium acetate, zinc acetate, ferrous acetate, boron trifluoride, aluminum chloride, amines, amides, and an inorganic acid.

20. (New) The molded article as set forth in claim 1, wherein said resin molded article is subjected to thermal treatment under an inert-gas atmosphere.

21. (New) The method as set forth in claim 10, wherein said thermal treatment is performed under an inert-gas atmosphere in which the residual oxygen concentration is less than 1 %.